

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A paper feeder, for feeding a sheet of paper to a recording apparatus, comprising:

a hopper, for stacking a plurality of sheets of paper;

a paper feeding roller, adapted to feed the sheets of paper one by one in a first direction~~which constitutes a part of a paper transporting passage;~~

a guide plate disposed adjacent to the hopper relative to the first direction to form a part of the paper transporting passage, and opposing to the paper feeding roller;

~~a paper returner, placed in vicinity of an end portion of the hopper, wherein the paper returner is having a first face and pivotable between a first position at which the first face is made flush with the guide plate where the paper returner constitutes a part of the paper transporting passage, and a second position at which the first face where the paper returner blocks the paper transporting passage; and~~

~~a separation pad, provided on a the first face of the paper returner, the separation pad and having a friction coefficient which is higher than a friction coefficient of the first face of the paper returner,~~

~~wherein the paper returner is placed at the first position so that a top sheet of paper in the hopper is abutted against the paper feeding roller, and is separated from other sheets of paper by~~

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No. 10/671,556

~~the separation pad; wherein the paper returner is placed at the second position so that the first face of the paper returner returns sheets of paper, which are entered in the paper transporting passage together with the sheet of paper to be fed, to the hopper, and~~

~~wherein the hopper comprises a first portion that supports the plurality of sheets of paper in a stacking direction of the plurality of sheets of paper; and a second portion that supports the plurality of sheets of paper in a non-stacking direction of the plurality of sheets of paper,~~

~~an auxiliary roller,~~

~~wherein the paper feeding roller and the auxiliary roller are arranged in a widthwise direction of the sheet of paper;~~

~~wherein the first face of the paper returner abuts the top sheet of paper which is abutted against the paper feeding roller and the auxiliary roller, when the paper returner is placed in the first position; and~~

~~wherein the auxiliary roller is arranged, such that it contacts a center of one surface of the widthwise direction of the sheet of paper.~~

2. (canceled).

3. (original): The paper feeder as set forth in claim 1, wherein the first face of the paper returner prevents the sheets of paper in the hopper from entering the paper transporting passage, when the paper returner is placed in the second position.

4. (canceled).

5. (previously presented): The paper feeder as set forth in claim 1, wherein the paper feeding roller is arranged, such that it contacts only on one side of one surface of the widthwise direction of the sheet of paper.

6. (canceled).

7. (original): The paper feeder as set forth in claim 1, wherein the paper returner further comprises a distal end having a protrusion formed thereon.

Claims 8-13 (canceled)

14. (new) The paper feeder as set forth in claim 1, further comprising an auxiliary roller operative to feed the sheets of paper together with the paper feeding roller,

wherein:

the paper feeding roller and the auxiliary roller are arranged in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, and

the paper returner is elongated in the second direction so as to oppose to both of the paper transporting roller and the auxiliary roller.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No. 10/671,556

15. (new) The paper feeder as set forth in claim 14, wherein the separation pad includes a first pad opposed to the paper feeding roller and a second pad opposed to the auxiliary roller.

16. (new) The paper feeder as set forth in claim 1, wherein the separation pad extends parallel with the guide plate when the paper returner is placed in the first position.